

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 EB-07 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:JGAUBERT:EBS

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R 140027Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, PRC

SUBJECT: SECRETARY BUTZ'S REMARKS ON THE PRC
AUGUST 9

REF: HONG KONG 9445

1. SECRETARY BUTZ'S AUGUST 9 SPEECH IN CHICAGO WAS
POLITICAL, I.E., NOT WRITTEN BY USDA AND NOT INTENDED TO
BE A STATEMENT OF US POLICY. THE FOLLOWING WAS PROVIDED
BY FAS AND CABLED TO HONG KONG AG OFFICER VIA FASTO.

2. BEGIN QUOTE

1. PRESS AND TRADE REPORTS ON SECRETARY'S PRC STATEMENT
IN CHICAGO TRACE FROM GENERAL STATEMENT AT PRESS CONFER-
ENCE IN CHICAGO AUGUST 9. THERE WAS NO MENTION OF CHINA
IN HIS CHICAGO SPEECH AS PREPARED OR DELIVERED. AND NO
REFERENCE ANYWHERE TO ANY CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS.

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2. BUT REFERENCE TO PRC TRADE IN PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWED QUESTION ABOUT POSSIBLE EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE. SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT US WOULD LIKELY PROVIDE DISASTER ASSISTANCE BUT ONLY IF ASKED. HE THEN ADDED AS FOLLOWS:

I KNOW THERE ARE MIXED OPINIONS IN THIS COUNTRY ABOUT THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. YET I THINK ONE OF THE GREAT BREAKTHROUGHS OF THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN THE FACT THAT WE'VE QUIT PRETENDING 800 MILLION CHINESE WEREN'T THERE. FOR 30 YEARS WE PRETENDED THEY WEREN'T THERE. NOW WE'VE CRACKED THE DOOR OPEN TO THEM. WE'RE TALKING WITH THEM. WE'RE TRADING WITH THEM. YEAR BEFORE LAST WE SOLD THEM DOLS 700 MILLION WORTH OF FARM PRODUCTS RIGHT FROM THIS PART OF AMERICA, RIGHT HERE. AND WE'RE PROBABLY GOING TO SELL THEM SOME MORE THIS YEAR. LAST YEAR THEY HAD A GOOD CROP AND DIDN'T BUY ANY. BUT I THINK ONE OF THE GREAT BREAKTHROUGHS IS THAT WE ARE ESTABLISHING COMMUNICATION WITH THEM. WE ARE DEVELOPING RAPPORT WITH THEM. AND THAT'S ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE GOING TO MOVE THE WORLD TOWARD IMPROVED INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL STABILITY.

3. FAS GRAIN AND FEED DIVISION KNOWS OF NO PRC GRAIN PURCHASING ACTIVITIES AT PRESENT TIME. END QUOTE. ROBINSON

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